

NJSNCC Quarterly Meeting Minutes

The Boggs Center, April 5, 2012

New Brunswick

Attendance: Benjamin, Rebecca (DHSS/Division of Aging and Community Services)
Dao, Helen (Dao Consulting)
Gaston, Pamela (NJ Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired)
Gaventa, William (Boggs Center)
Gwiazda, Janet (DHS/DDS)
Kelly, Sarah (UMDNJ- NJPHA)
Meloire, Jessica (NJ Sharing Network)
Montalto, Nicholas (Diversity Dynamics)
Raia, Jackie Lue (NJ Sharing Network)
Roberson, Kathy (Boggs Center)
Smith, Stephen (DHS/Division of Developmental Disabilities)
Steinhauer, Zenaida (DOH/State Birth Defects Registry)
Vasudev, Jagdish (New Americans Program)

The primary purpose of this meeting was to continue discussion and planning for a fall, 2012, statewide conference. There was a very fruitful discussion that focused the ideas for the conference. Here is a summary:

Conference Title: Building Effective Communication between Individuals, Families, and Health/Human Service Providers.

Target attendees:

- Members of NJSNCC
- Health and human service providers
- Faith leaders (who often serve as cultural brokers, advocates, and leaders in ethnic communities.

Purpose: To address communication barriers to trust and respect that come from cultural assumptions, language barriers and ability/disability barriers through exploration of four initiatives in New Jersey that exemplify creative strategies and solutions as well as an ongoing commitment to enhancing culturally competent services.

Content: Find four organizations willing to present, in a panel format, the strategies they have used to address those barriers, build trust and respect, and make sure they don't destroy trust that may be present. The panels should include community partners with whom they have worked to address issues of cultural awareness and competence as well as recipients of services. They should address the issues faced, strategies they have used, including technology, what's worked or not worked, and ongoing challenges they face and are addressing.

Ideally, the panels will come from four different areas of health and human services: **a hospital, a health center, mental health or disability program, and a Medicaid managed care provider.**

The panels should be moderated by NJSNCC leaders and conference planners, well organized, addressing specific questions.

Format:

9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

- Introduction and Welcome
- Introduction to NJSNCC
- An Overview of the Issues in Communication
- Four panels: @ 1 hour each, 2 before lunch, 2 after
- Box Lunches
- Exhibitors with time to visit at lunch.

Funding Needed:

- Staff time/organization to handle registration process. Two options in discussion, but if another organization is interested, let us know.
- Breaks and Lunches: Discussion of the possibility of finding sponsors for the day who would pay the caterers directly.

Planning Committee: Committee of the whole, including people who were present at this meeting and present at the one on February 24. Next meeting of this committee is by conference call, date to be determined.

Tentative Date: Friday, October 19

Location being explored:

- Middlesex Fire Training Center (Jag Vasudev) and
- Police Training facility near Hamilton. (Steve Smith)

Other business:

- Zenaida Steinhauer reported on her attendance at the Health Equity Summit on April 2.
- Jackie Lue Raia and Jessica Melore were present from the New Jersey Sharing Network, noting the low number of people who have volunteered to be organ donors from some minority communities.
- We also welcomed Sarah Kelly from the New Jersey Public Health Association and Rebecca Benjamin from Aging and Community Services.

Summary submitted:

Bill Gaventa

